

WHAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE ARE BEING TOLD THROUGH SOVIET PRESS AND RADIO
(OCTOBER 27, 28 and 29)

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Summary

Commencing on October 26 and continuing through October 27 and 28 Soviet newspapers reduced the coverage given to the Cuban situation. Emphasis turned more toward the necessity for preventing war and played down somewhat the "international indignation" caused by the American quarantine action. All Soviet papers for October 27 carried the October 25 message of U Thant to Khrushchev and emphasized the "favorable" Soviet and foreign reaction to Khrushchev's previous messages to Bertrand Russell and U Thant. Some added details concerning US charges over Cuban missile bases was also given along with the reply that the photographs were "obviously forged by CIA." On October 28 it appeared that the Soviet press was trying to shift attention from Cuba to US bases throughout the world while the military threat of the Cuban situation was played down. At the same time Pravda and Izvestiya questioned whether the United States was "preparing a new adventure" against Cuba under cover of the OAS or the UN. Soviet domestic propaganda in the period between the Khrushchev letter offering to swap bases in Cuba for US bases in Turkey and his following letter of October 28 guaranteeing to dismantle rocket bases in Cuba was of a time-marking character with no mention of the President's rejection of the swap proposal. The Turkey-Cuba swap was not pushed either in the press or in domestic radio broadcasts. Bringing out the apparent confusion of some Soviet propaganda organs during this period, one Soviet commentator characterized as "hucksterish" the Cuba-Turkey swap proposal some twelve hours after Khrushchev had proposed it.

October 29 Soviet newspapers featured Khrushchev's October 28 "dismantling" offer and stressed the unanimous support of the Soviet people for his "wise policy" which "finds a way to avert the threat of thermonuclear war." The feelings of "immense relief and satisfaction" throughout Western Europe and the United States as a result of the dismantling offer were also stressed and Khrushchev cast in the role of a peace maker.

Pravda Leads with Khrushchev's October 28 "Dismantling" Message to President -

In its October 29 issue Pravda opened with the text of Khrushchev's October 28 message to President Kennedy concerning the dismantling of the of the Cuba missile bases. Also contained in Pravda was the President's reply acclaiming the message. (The text of the President's reply was also carried on the domestic broadcasts of Radio Moscow.) Pravda stated that "the Soviet people are unanimous in their approval of Khrushchev's new message to US President Kennedy," and stressed the "general support of the Soviet working people" for the "wise policy" of the Soviet government" which "even in a most complicated situation finds a way to avert the threat of thermonuclear war."

Soviet Radio Stresses Worldwide Feelings of Relief at Khrushchev-Kennedy Accord -

During the morning of October 29 Soviet radio and Tass placed greatest emphasis on the "feelings of immense satisfaction and relief experienced by the peoples of Western Europe and the United States" as a result of what was described as the "accord reached on October 28 between Premier Khrushchev and President Kennedy." The favorable reactions of the British public and Bertrand Russell were detailed.

Jamming -

According to a report from VOA, the almost total jamming of VOA broadcasts to the Soviet Union, which had been attempted by the Soviet transmitters since the beginning of the Cuban crisis, has now been relaxed. On October 29 Soviet jamming appeared to be resuming its pre-crisis pattern with many feature articles allowed to go through along with a few news items not considered unfavorable. Thus Soviet jamming activities as well as the content of domestic news broadcasts appear to reflect a lessening of the crisis atmosphere.

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